



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Apples From the Inmates

Hagerstown Prisons to Harvest Red Delicious Crop Beginning September 6th

TOWSON, MARYLAND (September 2, 2005)---A three-acre crop of inmate-grown red delicious apples will be harvested in Hagerstown on September 6, yet another example of prison labor saving taxpayer money and giving inmates much-needed jobs while they're incarcerated.

Last fall's two three-acre crops were the first apples ever grown by State Use Industries inmates, pruned and tended under the supervision of SUI horticulturist Ron Henson.

This year's gala crop has been picked, and the red delicious crop will be harvested beginning Tuesday, September 6. The apples are eaten by inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown, Roxbury Correctional Institution, and Maryland Correctional Training Center.

The apple orchard falls under the horticulture program of State Use Industries, the prison industry arm of the Maryland Division of Correction, which annually saves taxpayers millions by producing food, furniture, clothing, and other items for state agencies and non-profits, while also providing employment and vocational training for inmates.

This is the second year the trees have been mature for harvest. State Use deliberately planted dwarf trees to keep the inmates from having to climb or struggle to pick the apples.

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